

HOOSIER WOMEN AT WORK

STUDIES IN INDIANA WOMEN'S HISTORY

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“Women in Indiana State Government: Reflecting on 200 Years of Achievements”

LAURA MERRIFIELD ALBRIGHT*

Women have played an integral role in Indiana politics dating as far back as the state's inception. Though women could not vote and did not hold elected office, their work in influencing public policy established a valuable precedent for generations to come. Two centuries later, women are even more active in Indiana politics, particularly at the state level, where women comprise a majority of the elected positions within the executive branch and occupy 20.7% of state legislature seats. Beyond just representation in numbers, the female politicians elected to state offices bring a unique perspective and a diversity of experience to their role of public service. This paper seeks to analyze the historical trends of representation of Hoosier women in the state government and evaluate their major contributions to Indiana politics.

* Laura Merrifield Albright is Assistant Professor and Pre-Law Advisor at the University of Indianapolis. She earned her Master of Arts, Women's Studies, and her Doctor of Philosophy, Political Science, at the University of Alabama.